

CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY

**Regular Meeting
November 7, 2001 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Children & Families Commission Offices
University of California Building
550 E. Shaw, Suite 215
Fresno, CA**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

Recommendations:

Approve Commission Minutes – October 3, 2001 Regular Meeting

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2001 MEETING

Present: Chair Bob Waterston, Vice Chair Luisa Medina, Secretary/Treasurer Gary Carozza, Commissioners Roseanne Lascano, Kathleen McIntyre, LeeAnn Parry; Executive Director Steve Gordon; County Counsel Holley Perez

Absent: Marion Karian (excused) and Oscar Sablan (excused)

Commissioner Waterston called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.; a quorum was established.

1. Report of Closed Session

Commissioner Waterston reported that, in the report of the Closed Session held June 6, 2001, the minutes should state that the Commission reviewed the performance of Executive Director Steven P. Gordon and determined he has met all expectations pursuant to contract terms and approved an increase in annual compensation.

2. Approval of Minutes – September 5, 2001 meeting

Commissioner McIntyre moved (Medina second) approval of the minutes as presented. Commissioner Parry requested the addition of "... to committees" at the end of the first sentence on p. 4. Minutes approved unanimously as corrected.

Commission Waterston recessed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing on the 2001-2002 Strategic Plan.

3. Public Hearing – 2001-2002 Strategic Plan

Executive Director Gordon reported that the 2001-2002 Children & Families Commission of Fresno County Strategic Plan ("Plan") was presented to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for review and comment, per ordinance requirements, at their September 18, 2001 meeting. The Board of Supervisors made no suggestions for additions or changes, and Supervisors Arambula, Anderson and Koligan congratulated the Commission on the scope and content of the Plan. The Plan is now returning to the Commission for final adoption before forwarding to the State Commission.

Public Comment: Vicki Hoyle, Fresno Co. EOC, asked about continued inclusion of the "Institute" piece from the 2000-01 Strategic Plan. Director Gordon responded that, while the Institute as a separate, independent piece of the Plan has been eliminated, the importance of the elements which comprised the Institute piece are still very important and relevant but that to combine them into one heading is too cumbersome to manage. He assured the public that these pieces are being incorporated into all areas of the Plan.

Commissioner Medina commented that, while the Commission is required to officially adopt a strategic plan, she considers it a dynamic, working document that could be revised as needed throughout the year. By consensus, the Commission agreed.

Commissioner Waterston closed the Public Hearing on the Strategic Plan and re-opened the regular meeting.

4. Adopt 2001-2002 Strategic Plan

Commissioner Medina moved (Carozza second) to adopt the 2000-01 Strategic Plan as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Chairman Waterston recessed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing on the State Commission Annual Report, 1999-2000.

5. Public Hearing – State Commission Annual Report, 1999-2000

Director Gordon stated, pursuant to the California Children and Families Act, each county commission is required to hold a public hearing on the annual report of the State Commission in order to continue receiving state funding. Chair Waterston asked for public comment; none was given.

Chair Waterston closed the Public Hearing on the State Commission Annual Report and re-opened the regular meeting.

6. Adopt Funding Recommendations for Leveraging Applications, RFP 01-D

Director Gordon presented a recap of the RFP 01-D grant application process. The Commission encumbered \$4 million in the 2000-2001 budget for leveraging the State Department of Education's (DOE) State Preschool Program Funding (MB 00-29) and General Child Care and Development Program Funding (MB 00-28). The purpose of this leveraging opportunity was to expand and or enhance programs by leveraging the State's funds with additional local dollars. Fresno County appears to be the only county currently leveraging funds in this manner.

Program Operations Analyst Kendra Rogers stated that five of the nine agencies awarded funds from one of the two state DOE funding programs applied for Commission matching funds under this RFP. Funds were available for start-up, operational or capital expenses. Based on the grant received from the State DOE, Commission funding available during this funding cycle was on a dollar-for-dollar match with DOE funds, with a maximum total of \$500,000 per state application. Funds were available for a one to three year period, with a cap on capital funds of \$200,000. A committee consisting of members from the Local Child Care Planning Council and the Fresno Area Child Development Consortium reviewed the applications on a non-competitive basis to ensure requested funds would enhance or expand the State programs and that Commission funds would not supplant State funds.

Staff recommendation is to fund the following agencies as indicated:

Name of Agency	Amount	Years
Caruthers Unified School District	\$233,073	1
Fresno Unified School District	\$266,293	3
I-5 Social Services Corporation, Inc.	\$632,674	2
Kel-Sun Child Development, Inc.	\$200,000	1
Washington Colony Elementary School District	<u>\$146,707</u>	3
TOTAL	\$1,478,747	

County Counsel Perez asked for conflict of interest disclosures; there were none disclosed.

Commissioner Carozza moved (Medina second) that the consent items be approved as recommended. Motion approved unanimously.

7. Approve 30-day Notification for Termination of Evaluation Contract

Executive Director Gordon stated that the contract is not working as anticipated when executed and he is requesting that the Commission approve activation of the "30-day notice to terminate without cause" clause of the evaluation contract with SG Associates, Inc.

Commissioner Carozza moved (Medina second) that the "30-day notice to terminate without cause" clause of the evaluation contract with SG Associates, Inc. be activated.

Public Comment: Susanna Ginsburg, President, SG Associates, expressed SG's disappointment that the contract effort has not worked out. She thanked the service providers that they have worked with to this point. She said that they fundamentally believe that the evaluation model they are utilizing does work and that they are exploring several alternatives to help assure that the Commission and the service providers are left at a point where it will be very easy for everyone to benefit from what has already been accomplished. The two alternatives they have proposed are (1) figuring out ways of working within the context of the contract and (2) how to terminate the contract smoothly.

Ronna Mallios, UCSF Latino Center for Medical Education & Research, a subcontractor of SG Associates, expressed their satisfaction with working with SG Associates and their evaluation program.

Tony Silva, I-5 Social Services, asked about how much of a set-back this action will be to Commission service providers. Director Gordon responded that there should be little impact since the foundation of the logic models being established are generic to any good evaluation.

Motion approved unanimously.

8. Discuss Commission Utilization of Advisory Committees

Executive Director Gordon stated that, per the Commission's request at the last meeting, staff is requesting Commission discussion on this topic. He stated that, when the Commission was initially formed, an agreement was drafted with the Interagency Council to be the official "advisory" body for the Commission, and he has been serving on the Interagency Council. He stated that while the Interagency Council does serve a purpose, he felt there is need for a mechanism for the Commission to receive on-going input and advice from parents and experts in the early childhood community. He said that he felt there were a number of different approaches to accomplishing this, such as a single "advisory"

committee, subcommittees of the Commission for specific topics, an advisory committee with subcommittees under it, etc. He envisions that by allowing this mechanism of feedback to staff and the Commission will help the Commission make better decisions.

Discussion: Commissioner Parry stated that she views such committees as open to the public and anybody could join them who had a commitment to do so; key organizations and individuals would also be identified for each particular task. She feels that the Commission is at the point where it needs to rethink what activities the Commission should be doing. Commissioner Medina expressed her desire that, whatever committees are set up, they should be tied back to supporting and promoting what is in the Strategic Plan. She advocates establishing a more formalized process for establishing the committees and how members are appointed. She requested staff bring recommendations in terms of structure and process and some potential listing of committees. Commissioner Carozza suggested surveying other counties to see how they have established an advisory committee structure, appointment and meeting schedule process, etc.

Lilia Chavez, Interagency Council, stated that the Interagency Council (IC) recognizes that, in order to move forward and be an effective advisory body to the Commission, they need to expand their reach. She described the possibility that IC would continue to be the "acknowledged advisory" of the Commission because they adhere to all the Brown Act regulations, etc. The IC has a process established whereby they can establish "task teams" or subcommittees for specific issues. The only requirement is that one member of the IC be on each team or subcommittee, with the remainder of the membership pulled from the general population interested in each specific issue. The IC could do this on behalf of the Commission. The part of the process that might be at issue is that a task team or subcommittee established by the IC would report back to IC with their findings. The IC then determines whether those findings are sufficient to go to the next step or if there is more work needed. The Commission might not want that intermediary step and this could present a conflict issue. However, it should be noted that any recommendation coming from a subcommittee of the IC to the IC and then to the Commission would simply be in an advisory capacity and the Commission could respond however they felt necessary.

Commissioner Medina stated she felt that how the Commission utilizes the IC should be part of the overall discussion when it comes back to them. She expressed her opinion that IC is not as close to the community as she personally would like to see; she also does not particularly like the idea of an intermediary between the Commission and the community. Commissioner Carozza expressed his thought that he sees an amalgam of what IC can offer in terms of process married with community involvement. Commissioner Waterston requested staff investigate what other counties are doing in this area.

Catherine Martin, San Joaquin Valley Health Consortium, stated she felt that public and community input on an on-going basis was extremely important.

9. Public Comment

Commissioner Carozza stated he would like staff to bring information on moneys remaining from the Leveraging Application allocation back to the Commission, and asked the Commission to consider utilizing these funds for additional leveraging in the County's rural communities for construction of "child enrichment" centers, providing the communities will commit in terms of land, near schools, sustainability, etc. He said he would like to see additional funds set aside for such facilities in the current year budget and it was his understanding that this type of facility could be built for between \$250,000 and \$500,000,

creating a lasting facility in each of the communities over a 7-8 year period. There was consensus among Commissioners for utilizing future funds in this manner.

Commissioner Carozza also requested that financial reports be presented at the next meeting for all current contracts and the mini-grant program. He also requested a report on progress (purchases, accomplishments to date, etc.) of all current contracts. Commissioner Lascano also asked for financial statements. Director Gordon responded that the audit was in the final stages of preparation and would be presented at the next meeting, at which time financial statements for the first quarter of 2001-02 would be presented, and thence monthly thereafter.

10. Announcements

Commissioners Waterston, Carozza, Lascano, McIntyre and Sablan recently attended a Commissioners' Retreat. Waterston reported that of the most benefit to him was learning about the management of money and the programs, the differences and disparities between counties, and how each county is dealing with their unique problems in an individual manner. Carozza stated that he was impressed being able to meet and talk with commissioners from other counties and talk about the issues. He said that he continues to be impressed by the community involvement, interest and commitment in the Commission in Fresno County, and that we have the highest attendance at Commission meetings of any county in the state. Commissioner McIntyre reported that she learned about the impact that future legislation might have on the Children & Families Act (Act), and that all funding will be in jeopardy during the next budget cycle; the anticipation is for a 5% reduction, but it could be much higher in lost revenue. She feels we all should be contacting our local legislators to ask where they stand on how Prop. 10 funds should be spent. The need for legislative advocacy is the strongest point Commissioner Lascano said she learned from the conference, and wondered if additional staff might be needed so that a larger advocacy role could be pursued for the Commission, both locally and statewide.

Eva Torres, Radio Bilingue, announced that on Oct. 12, in celebration of Bi-national Health Week, a California-Mexico initiative initiated by the California Endowment, a delegation of Mexican dignitaries, including the Mexico Secretary of Health and Mexico's liaison for immigrants abroad, will be in Fresno County, appearing at both CSU-Fresno and at the United Health Center in Parlier.

Director Gordon announced that one of the Commission's service providers, Centro Binacional Para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (formerly F.I.O.B.), will hold a groundbreaking for their "Casa San Miguel" housing project also on Oct. 12, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Jan Fjellbo, West Fresno Health Care Coalition, announced a "Community Fair" to be held at Kearney Palms Shopping Center on October 20, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Commissioner Carozza asked Ms. Torres to tell about her nomination as "Business Woman of the Year" for her work with Radio Bilingue.

Director Gordon announced that on November 1 and 2, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation is funding a presentation, co-sponsored by the Academy of Sciences and the California Health Initiative, by the authors of *"From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development"*, on the report of their findings. November 1 is reserved for Commissioners only, while the presentations on Nov. 2 are geared to Commissioners and a limited number of community members and policy makers. County Commissions from

throughout the San Joaquin Valley and along the Central Coast have been invited to participate in this event.

Director Gordon also announced that the Valley Children's Hospital has scheduled their "Children's Summit" for November 2.

Director Gordon stated that Fresno County CFC is a partner in the proposed Central Valley Farm Workers' Project, along with Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and Tulare Counties. Formal presentation was made in late September to the California Children & Families Commission for a \$13 million funding proposal, which was not approved. However, State Commission staff has been assigned to assist with revisions to the plan to improve the funding potential. Commissioner Medina requested additional information on this project.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.